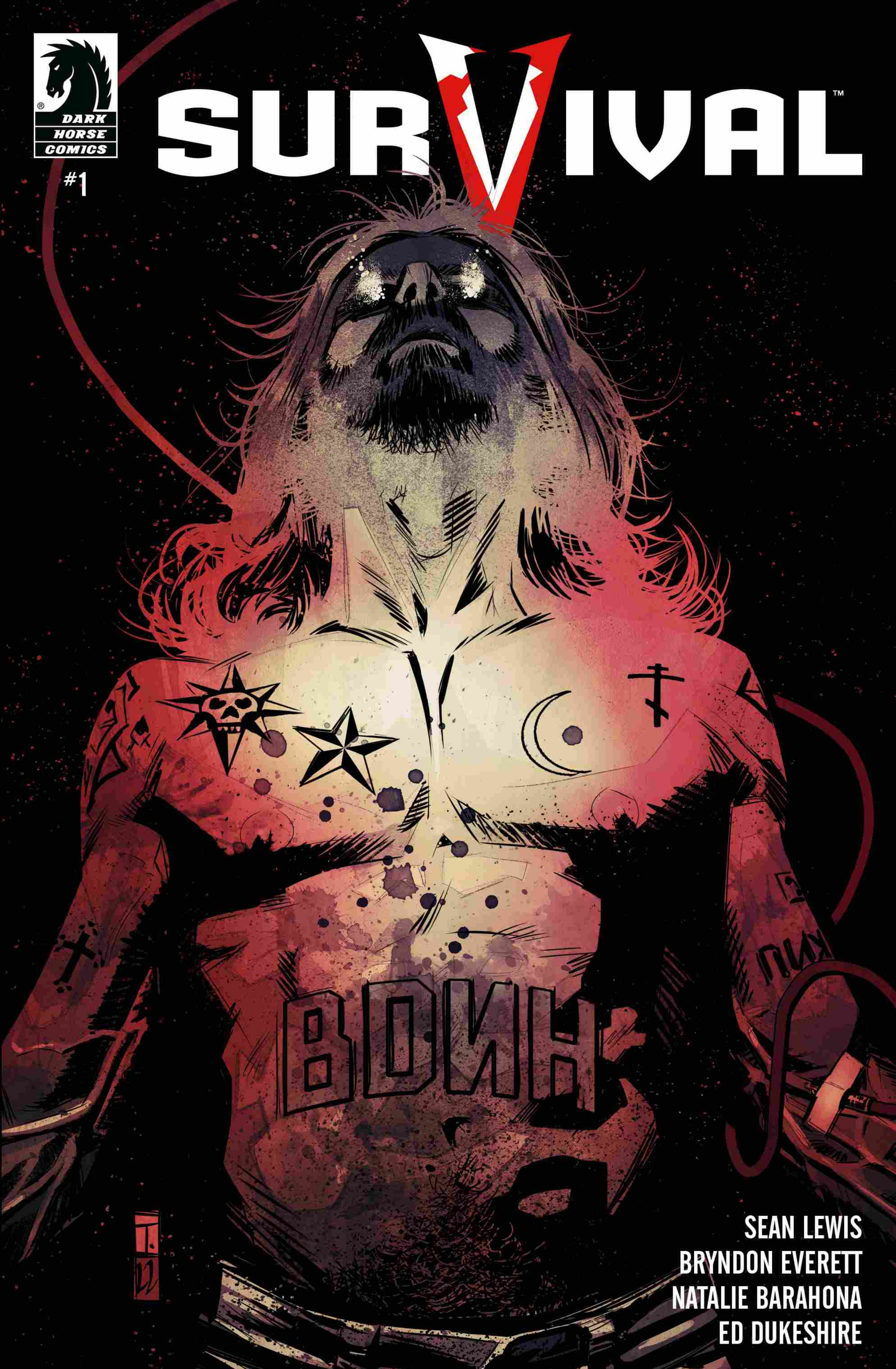
DARK HORSE COMICS

SURVIVAL™

#1



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DARK HORSE COMICS PRESENTS
A 12-GAUGE COMICS PRODUCTION

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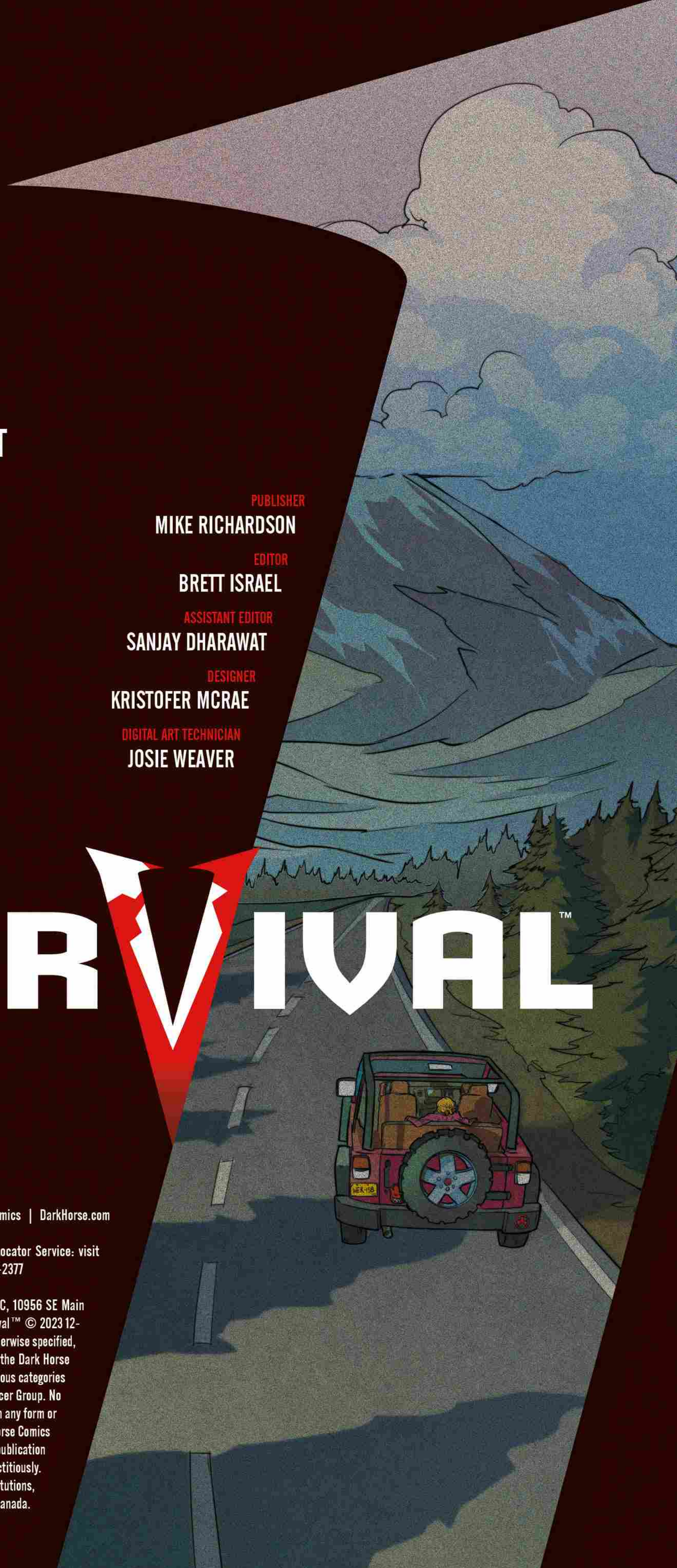

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TALKEETNA, ALASKA.
KTNA 88.9 FM, "MORNING EDITION."

"DETAILS REMAIN SCARCE, BUT SOURCES AT THE KREMLIN TELL US A GROUP OF REBELS HAS TAKEN OVER A RUSSIAN MILITARY BASE ALONG THE CHECHEN BORDER."

DAY 1.

"THE STORY IS DEVELOPING QUICKLY, HERE. RUSSIA HAS SEVERED INTERNET COMMUNICATION LINES AND DECOMMISSIONED SATELLITES, CREATING A MEDIA BLACKOUT WORLDWIDE. WHATEVER IS HAPPENING ALONG THE CHECHEN BORDER, THEY DO NOT WANT PEOPLE TO FIND OUT ABOUT IT."

DAY 2.

"ASH IS LITERALLY FALLING FROM THE SKY TONIGHT. EERILY REMINISCENT OF CHERNOBYL, A NUCLEAR REACTOR HAS MELTED DOWN ALONG THE CHECHEN BORDER. THIS TIME IT APPEARS PURPOSEFUL. A DESPERATE MOVE TO DESTROY THE BESIEGED RUSSIAN BASE."

DAY 3.

"SOME SAY THEY SAW MILITARY PLANES FLYING EN MASSE FROM THE RUSSIAN BASE, BUT NO ONE CAN BE SURE WHERE PLANES WOULD EVEN BE GOING, OR HOW MANY, WITH THE SOOT AND DARKNESS THAT HAS BEEN EXPELLED INTO THE SKY."

"TURNING TO LOCAL NEWS, STORMS TORE THROUGH ANCHORAGE AND TALKEETNA LAST NIGHT, LEAVING MANY RESIDENTS WITHOUT POWER AND GROUNDING FLIGHTS DUE TO POOR VISIBILITY. THE INTENSITY HAS RESIDENTS WONDERING IF THE NUCLEAR INCIDENT IN RUSSIA MAY HAVE SOME SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS FOR OUR HOME STATE..."

TALKEETNA, ALASKA.
APRIL.

SEE, OVER THERE!

HOLY SHIT. YOU WEREN'T LYING.

WHAT DO YOU THINK IS INSIDE?

DEAD BODIES. MWA HA HA!

THAT'S A JOKE, RIGHT?

I NEVER JOKE WHEN IT COMES TO CORPSES, BABE.

COME OUT, COME OUT, WHEREVER YOU ARE.

THIS IS SERIOUSLY CREEPY, BOBBY.

GROWL

WHAT IS THAT?

IF YOU'RE AFRAID OF WOLVES.

DON'T COME INTO THE FOREST.

ВОИН

ПИЯВКА

RUN, RUN, RUN!!!

BOBBY!

JUST GET BACK TO THE RONDY!

MISTER, WE DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING--

MISTEEEERRRRRRR...

DIE, BUGGY, DIE!

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, I'M EMMA REED. PFC. UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA ROTC. PASSENGER SEAT IS BRAD. DRIVING? WELL...

NICE ONE, GOON!

YEAH, I'M A COLD-BLOODED KILLER. THINK YOUR DAD WILL BE IMPRESSED, EMMA?

MY DAD HAS LIVED IN THE WOODS FOR TWENTY YEARS WITHOUT A BATHROOM AND THREATENS GUYS I BRING HOME BY PRESSING ARROWHEADS TO THEIR DICKS. HE'S NOT THE "IMPRESSED" TYPE.

WAIT, THEIR DICKS?

YEAH.

SOUNDS LIKE DADDY'S GOT A FETISH!

IT SAYS GO LEFT...

LEFT IS WHERE THE TREES ARE. DID THE ROTC TEACH YOU TO DRIVE THROUGH TREES?

YEAH. IT WAS WHILE YOU WERE TAKING A SHIT.

COME ON, MAN. THERE'S A GIRL AROUND.

WE ALL GOT MONSTERS THAT HAUNT US. I GOT MY DAD. FORMER GREEN BERET. HE'S A HARD MAN.

HE THINKS YOU SHOULD ONLY BELIEVE IN YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY.

BEING A SOLDIER MIGHT BE THE FIRST TIME HE'S ACTUALLY PROUD OF ME.

WE'RE GONNA BE KNEE DEEP IN MILITARY BADASSES.

EMMA'S DADDY IS GONNA SHOW ME HOW TO FIRE THAT ROCKET LAUNCHER, BABY!!

MY DAD IS THE SCARIEST THING OUT HERE. NOT BEARS. NOT WOLVES.

HIM.

...AND THIS IS HIS DOMINION.

THE RONDY. BITCH OF A MOUNTAIN.

MY HOMETOWN.

AND THE ANNUAL MEETING PLACE FOR ALUMNI OF THE MOST ELITE BRANCHES OF THE US MILITARY, FROM VIETNAM TO NOW.

"LISTEN, GRADY. WE'VE BEEN IN SOUTH AMERICA CLEARING OUT CARTELS IN RURAL PLACES WHERE NO ONE CAN HELP. WE NEED GOOD PEOPLE. MILLIGAN TOLD US YOU WERE THE BEST HE'D SEEN."

2A

I'M NOT INTERESTED.

DON'T WANT TO DEPEND ON A COUPLE OF BLACKS AND ASIANS FROM MICHIGAN? MY DUDE DEACON IS HMONG. GREAT SHARPSHOOTER. HATES CRACKERS, BUT HE'D KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR YOU.

MAYBE.

LOOK. WE AREN'T SOME BLACKWATER MOTHERFUCKERS. THIS ISN'T SOME GREED-DRIVEN FAKE WAR ENTERPRISE.

DO YOU TAKE MONEY? I'M NOT JUDGING YOU. BUT THERE ISN'T A GUN THAT GETS LIFTED THAT ISN'T AT THE BEHEST OF SOMEONE'S DOLLAR.

FORGET ABOUT THE MONEY. YOU GOT A DAUGHTER IN COLLEGE, RIGHT?

"THINK ABOUT HER AND YOUR SON, OLD MAN.

"'CAUSE WITH THE SHIT GOING ON...

"JUST LOOK AT THE BS IN RUSSIA ALONE--

"THEY'RE GONNA NEED MORE THAN YOU TO SAVE THEM."

NO THANKS. I SEE MY KIDS FROM HERE AND IT DON'T LOOK LIKE THE APOCALYPSE HAS TOUCHED THEM YET.

LIL' BRO IS GETTING SO BIG! DANNY BOY!

EMMA! I'M A MAN NOW. YOU GOTTA RESPECT ME.

OH, MY 14-YEAR-OLD MAN!

WHO IS DAD TALKING TO?

JUST ANOTHER PRIVATE SECURITY FIRM. THIS ONE IS SUPPOSED TO BE "KINDER" SOLDIERS, OR WHATEVER. WHO ARE YOUR FLUNKIES?

FLUNKIES? WE'RE US MILITARY. ROTC FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA, HOMBRE.

ROTC? EMMA, IS THIS JUST FOR DAD?

IS WHAT JUST FOR DAD? DAD TENDS TO LIKE THINGS JUST FOR HIM.

"ESPECIALLY AFTER AN HOUR OF SOME GUY NAMED OAK TELLING ME I NEED TO ENLIST FOR THE END OF THE WORLD."

HELP!!!

THAT'S TRACEE ELLENS. WHAT THE HELL IS SHE DOING OUT HERE? *TRACEE?*

TRACEE, THIS AIN'T A PLACE FOR KIDS. YOU ALL RIGHT?

MONSTERS. THERE ARE MONSTERS...

DAD?

"THERE'S SOMETHING OUT THERE."

THAT'S A MOSIN SNIPER RIFLE. GET DOWN!

BOOM

WE'VE GOT SOME UNFRIENDLIES.

SPLAT! SPLAT!

DANNY, RUN LEFT. GOON, BRAD--TAKE COVER...

THAT'S REAL GUNFIRE. SHIT. I SWEAR I'M GONNA PISS MYSELF, EMMA.

WELL, GOON, AS MUCH AS I'D LIKE TO FLIRT WITH SOMEONE AS COLD BLOODED AS YOU, I GOT SOMETHING ELSE TO TAKE CARE OF.

JUST KEEP YOUR HEADS DOWN AND DON'T GET SHOT.

WHEN WE WERE KIDS, DAD TOLD US THIS DAY COULD COME AT ANY MOMENT...

PEOPLE CRASHING OUR DOORS DOWN. PEOPLE SHOOTING FROM THE BUSHES.

PEOPLE TRYING TO KILL US. KILL... THE REST OF US.

NO RETURN FIRE...THIS ISN'T A GROUP.

IT'S A LONE SHOOTER.

EMMA. HE'S LEADING YOU! DON'T BE STUPID, STAY HERE!

Давай корова. *

* FOLLOW ME, COW.

IF WE'D LIVED LIKE NORMAL PEOPLE, I COULD'VE BEEN A STATE TRACK AND FIELD CHAMP.

IF WE'D LIVED LIKE NORMAL PEOPLE, I WOULDN'T KNOW HOW TO TRACK GUNMEN IN THE WOODS. I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN TRAINED FOR THAT.

IF "ONLY."

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? YOUR DAD NOT TEACH YOU ANYTHING? HE'S BAITING YOU. HE WANTS YOU TO FOLLOW.

HE'S STUPID, THEN.

WHY'S THAT?

"'CAUSE THE ONLY THING IN THAT DIRECTION IS A CLIFF."

"YOU SURE?"

YEAH.

MY MOM JUMPED OFF IT.

YO! WAKE UP!

ARE YOU SEEING WHAT I'M SEEING?

THAT'S BOBBY JACOBS. HE RIDES BIKES WITH THAT GIRL TRACEE.

"AND THE DUDE IN THE FIRST RESPONDER UNIFORM?"

"I DON'T KNOW, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH HIM."

"HOLY SHIT."

I'M NOT EVEN FRONTING, THAT'S SOME VAMPIRE SHIT. HE JUST ATE A GODDAMN ARM.

SUDDENLY, I'M MISSING JUAREZ.

I NEED TO RECORD THIS.

NO, WE GOTTA GO.

FINE. YOU GOT A CAR? ANY BACK-UP?

WE CAME OUT TO A WHITE BOY MILITIA MEETING. DON'T YOU KNOW WE GOT BOTH?

DAB TSI YOG LI? *

YOU WHISTLING LIKE A LITTLE BITCH, WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

YOU WOULDN'T EVEN BELIEVE ME, DEACON. COME ON!

* WHAT'S UP, WHAT'S WRONG?

I JUST SENT ONE OF MY MEN OFF WITH THE GIRL ON THE BIKE. AIN'T ANYONE ON THE PERIMETER.

YOUR DAUGHTER IS MISSING, TOO, THOUGH. THE ASIAN AND BLACK DUDE, AS WELL.

DEACON AND OAK. THEY'LL BE FINE. WE GOTTA DO SOMETHING WITH THESE BODIES.

WE GOT TO CALL THE COPS. THIS IS NUTS.

DUDE. WE'RE LIKE 100 MILES FROM ANYTHING. DON'T BE A NARC. THIS SHIT IS WAR AND WE'RE SOLDIERS.

SOLDIERS? I SIGNED UP FOR THE TUITION STIPEND. AND YOU WERE JUST TALKING ABOUT PISSING YOURSELF.

EMERGENCY 911

CALLING...

HEY, YOU TWO, TAKE A GUN AND LOOK AROUND.
I'M NOT TAKING ORDERS FROM NO ONE'S "LIL' BRO."

COOL, I'LL GET A SHEET TO COVER YOUR BODY WITH INSTEAD.

WHAT THE FUCK WAS THAT?
I DON'T KNOW, BUT THIS TIME WE'RE READY.

DAD!

WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE, NOW.

THERE ARE THINGS IN THE WOODS--NONE OF YOU ARE GOING TO BE ABLE TO HANDLE THIS. WE NEED TO GET THESE PEOPLE OUT OF HERE.

DAD.

WE DON'T LEAVE OUR HOME.

THERE'S PEOPLE DEAD HERE. IF SOMEONE OUT THERE WANTS A FIGHT, WE'LL STAND OUR GODDAMN GROUND, EMMA!

IF YOU'RE NOT SCARED YOU'RE NOT PAYING ATTENTION

NOT AGAINST THIS.

GRADY!

YOUR DAUGHTER MIGHT BE ONTO SOMETHING.

Мы пожираем тебя. *

I AM RASUL. I AM DEATH.

* WE DEVOUR YOU.

EVERYONE IN! WE GOTTA RETREAT AND GET SOME BACKUPS HERE.

JUST DRIVE!

IF YOU'RE READING THIS, KNOW THIS IS THE STORY OF MY FAMILY.

THIS IS A STORY OF SURVIVAL.

THERE'S GONNA BE A LOT OF SACRIFICES ALONG THE WAY.

WITH RESPECT,
PFC EMMA REED.

ISSUE 2
ON SALE
JUNE 7!

DARK HORSE COMICS

12-GAUGE

SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN... THIS MONSTER!"